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COUNTRY USSR **REPORT NO.** CS-3/584,235

SUBJECT Comments of Metropolitan Yosif Slipyy on the Political and Emotional Climate in the Ukraine **DATE DISTR.** 18 June 1964

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. Prior to September 1963

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FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A Western citizen of Ukrainian extraction (B), from Metropolitan Slipyy.
Appraisal of Content: 2 (that Slipyy made these comments).

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1. Metropolitan Slipyy observed that although the political and emotional climate in the Ukraine was not as good as one would wish, he was of the opinion that "the worst was over". Having weathered Stalin, nothing could destroy the Ukrainians. Nationalism is on the increase.
2. The extent of Ukrainian national consciousness should not be judged by the external signs of Russification. Many Ukrainians speak Russian for justified reasons, but they remain Ukrainians nevertheless. In comparison, he pointed out that although the Irish lost their language and speak English, they remain good Irish patriots. Slipyy disagreed with the opinion that Ukrainians failed to show sufficient strength and initiative to elevate their status after the death of Stalin. He defended their caution by pointing out that rapid readjustment was difficult after life under Stalin and said that Ukrainians were correct in their appraisal and anticipation of future developments in the top echelons.
3. There is a strong idealistic element among the youth in the Ukraine. Use of the Ukrainian language and interest in the Ukraine's position are on the increase. Slipyy said that there is no lack of Ukrainian talent and industriousness but more is needed.
4. The Ukrainian liberation movement has been a difficult struggle. Slipyy added that although he too had been persecuted for Ukrainian nationalism, he could not always see eye to eye with Ukrainian nationalists.
5. There is much active opposition to the Soviet regime, according to the Metropolitan. He said that he had learned about various incidences from prison and transport guards. He had heard prison

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guards discuss strikes in Odessa and other areas. He had heard them talk about illegal student organizations, an explosion of a podium on which Khrushchev was to appear on his return from Paris 1960, and about students throwing empty bottles at Khrushchev in Leningrad.

6. Metropolitan Slipyy said he would consider the establishment of a Ukrainian Catholic patriarchate in the Ukraine synonymous with re-establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic church itself. This is the objective toward which he is striving. The new title of "Episcopus Major" conferred upon him by Pope Paul VI is also significant since it restores the old privileges of the Kiev-Holych Metropoly.

Headquarters Comment: The title "Episcopus Major" is confined to the Eastern Catholic Church and ranks just under a patriarch. It is equivalent to the Armenian and Chaldean title of "Catholicas". An "Episcopus Major" (Major Archbishop) governs a metropolitan see not dependent on a patriarchate and has roughly the same right as a patriarch in appointing bishops, establishing eparchies and a permanent synod, calling special prayers, revising liturgical books, and appointing a personal representative to the Holy See.

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